



Date: January 19, 2005
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The BLM Billings Field Office is asking the public to review and comment on its analysis of off-highway vehicle (OHV) travel at the Shepherd Ah Nei OHV area.

The environmental assessment (EA) considers five different alternatives for the management of OHV travel at the popular area north of Shepherd. The area has been closed to OHV use since April 23, 2004, in order to comply with a civil case judgment.

The five alternatives include: 1) limiting OHV travel to existing roads; 2) requiring permits for motorized use; 3) maximizing resource protection opportunities while limiting OHV road and trail designations; 4) emphasizing recreation opportunities in conjunction with responsible resource protection; and 5) combining recreational use with management for resource protection in collaboration with adjacent landowners, permittees, and users.

After comments are reviewed and necessary adjustments made to the EA, BLM officials will decide on which alternative, or combination of alternatives, to implement.

The deadline for written comments is February 22, 2005. Comments should be sent to BLM Billings Field Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101. The EA is available at: www.mt.blm.gov or by calling 896-5013.

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